

Diane Frank

Omen

Through the scimitar shadows
by the 19th century church and graveyard,
the world is getting darker.
Crescents of light on the church walls,
slivers of hay still glowing
in a field of tiger lilies.

A morning sunset
over the ponderosa pines
and at the totality
a hush, applause, a dark feather
first light of the corona
around a dark sun.

The owl wakes up from its dream.
The Labrador quiet
at the feet of a young boy.
We traveled to this place
following a trail through time
in the footsteps of
ancient astronomers to view
a strange light.

And then that first ray of light
of the world beginning again.

White Butterfly

"In Chinese symbology a white butterfly symbolizes the soul of a departed loved one. A white butterfly also means angels are watching over you, and you are being protected."

As the sky begins to fill
with light,
a blue feather in my dream.

Above the cypress tree
that looks like a dragon,
a white butterfly –
spirit, messenger, ghost?

On the stairs
to my Grandmother's farm house,
a spider's web
becomes a harp, a ladder
filling with pelicans,
a wind chime over the ocean
weaving a B-minor chord.

She knows the healing roots,
a cup of tea
that feels like drinking a forest.

On the path from the ice house
to the summer kitchen,
everyone I need to forgive
appears at a window.

My brother pulls a red wagon
up a long hill
as gold bricks fall out.

A hummingbird hovers over pink dianthus
in my Grandmother's garden.
I remember her hands,
the way she kneaded bread,
what she sang as she was weaving clouds
on the hand loom in her attic.

White butterflies have angel wings.
At dawn, everything dissolves
into separate worlds.

Diane Frank is an award-winning poet and author of seven books of poems. Her new book, *Canon for Bears and Ponderosa Pines*, was published by Glass Lyre Press. *Blackberries in the Dream House*, her first novel, won the Chelson Award for Fiction and was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. Diane lives in San Francisco, where she dances, plays cello, and creates her life as an art form. She teaches at San Francisco State University and Dominican University. She is editor of the bestselling anthology, *River of Earth and Sky: Poems for the 21st Century*. She also plays cello in the Golden Gate Symphony. Her photo memoir, *Letters from a Sacred Mountain Place: A Journey through the Nepal Himalayas* was published by Nirala Press in 2018.